

ARGUMENTS

Rejection of Claims on Art Grounds in the 09/17/2004 Office Action, and Traversal Thereof

In the 09/17/2004 Office Action, claims 1-64 were rejected on prior art grounds, under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 35 U.S.C 103(a).

Claims 1-64 are pending. Claims 3-8 and 55-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ghoneimy et al. U.S. Publication No. 2004/0078373 A1. Claims 1-2 and 9-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ghoneimy et al. U.S. Publication No. 2004/0078373 A1.

The present invention is a method and system for creating project plans from a workflow. More particularly, the invention is a method and system for integrating workflows and project plans to keep them “in step” with each other.

The Present Invention Is Novel Over The Cited U.S. Publication to Ghoneimy et al.

As stated in MPEP §2131, a claim is anticipated under §102 only if each and every element as set forth in the claim, in as complete of detail, is found in a single prior art reference. The claimed invention, according to independent claim 3 as currently amended call for steps of:

first creating a workflow that models a process; and

then generating a plan from the workflow that represents an instance
of the process.

As such, for the cited reference to be anticipatory of claim 3, the reference must describe these steps. In other words, the reference, to teach in as much detail as is claimed by the present invention, must disclose a means or steps of :

first creating a workflow that models a process; and
then generating a plan from the workflow that represents an
instance of the process.

The cited U.S. Publication to Ghoneimy et al. does not teach the above underlined steps. Instead, Ghoneimy et al. discloses developing a workflow by first creating a plan, wherein the plan includes defining an activity of a process, defining a participant of the process, and defining attributes of the process. In contrast, the method as defined by currently amended independent claim 3 creates a workflow first, and then generates a plan from the created workflow. Therefore, the cited Ghoneimy et al. cannot anticipate presently amended independent claim 3 or its dependents.

Independent claims 55 and 57 are presently amended to clarify that plans are generated from existing workflows. Ghoneimy et al. does not generate project plans from existing workflows. Instead, Ghoneimy et al. discloses developing a workflow by first creating a plan. Therefore, the cited U.S. Publication to Ghoneimy et al. cannot anticipate presently amended independent claims 55 or 57 or their respective dependent claims.

Independent claims 59 and 64 are presently amended to clarify that plans are generated after first generating workflows. In contrast, Ghoneimy et al. discloses developing a workflow by first creating a plan. Therefore, the cited U.S. Publication to Ghoneimy et al. cannot anticipate presently amended independent claims 59 or 64 or the dependent claims of claim 59.

The Present Invention Is Not Obvious Over Ghoneimy et al.

The cited application publication to Ghoneimy et al. broadly discloses steps involving workflow and plan creation. The methods and systems disclosed in the present application also disclose a plan creation, but do so from an existing workflow. Ghoneimy et al., on the other hand, discloses a method for developing a workflow by creating a plan. In contrast, the methods claimed in the present application create a plan from an existing workflow comprising a plurality of existing activities. In other words, the plan creation steps of the present methods begin with existing activities having existing durations. As a result, the presently claimed methods do not require a step of defining an activity of a process including its attributes as required by Ghoneimy et al. Since the presently claimed methods start a plan creation step with an existing workflow, the present invention comprises a step of receiving an indication of a task or activity start time to be used to set a task start and stop time accordingly. The method of Ghoneimy et al. cannot receive an indication of a task or activity start time because its process of plan creation does not begin with an existing workflow. Thus, there is no obvious benefit to be gained in Ghoneimy et al. by including the present steps of receiving an indication of a start time for a task and then setting an end time for the task equal to the task duration. None of the other references cited but not applied disclose, suggest or teach the above underlined steps. Therefore, the cited references, alone or in combination fail to contain any teaching or suggestion of the above underlined matter as it pertains to the present independent claims.

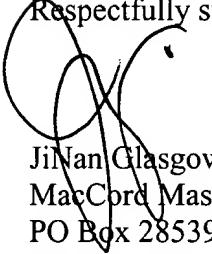
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-64 constituting the claims pending in the application, are submitted to be fully patentable and in allowable condition to address and overcome the rejections.

If any issues remain outstanding, incident to the allowance of the application, Examiner Coby is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (919)-664-8222 or via email at jinang@trianglepatents.com to discuss the resolution of such issues, in order that prosecution of the application may be concluded favorably to the applicant, consistent with the applicant's making of a substantial advance in the art and particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention.

This response is submitted to the USPTO via USPS Express Mail on 12/17/04.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this paper, which is an Amendment Responding to 17 September 2004 Office Action (our file 7399-024), is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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